

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/383,775

Examiner

Daniel Swerdlow

Applicant(s)

LIPTON ET AL.

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 23 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 46-63 and 65.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Scott W. Brim Reg. No. 51, 500 on 15 December 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 56: change the status identifier from "(currently presented)" to --(currently amended)--.

Claim 58: change the status identifier from "(currently presented)" to --(currently amended)--.

Claim 60: change the status identifier from "(currently presented)" to --(currently amended)--.

Claim 65: change the status identifier from "(previously amended)" to --(previously presented)--.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Swerdlow whose telephone number is 703-305-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forrester Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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FORESTER W. ISEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2. Regarding Claim 46, David et al. (US Patent 6,069,943) discloses a collaborative conferencing circuit comprising a router and associated interfaces (i.e., a telephone apparatus) (Fig. 1, reference 15, 16, 18, 20) coupled to a Line 1 interface (12) and a Line 2 interface (14) (i.e., a first telecommunications line and a second telecommunications line) and having a handset interface (20) and a speakerphone (i.e., hands-free) interface (16) (Note that due to an apparent typographical error, Fig. 1 identifies reference 20 as a headset interface, but it is identified as the handset interface at line 24-25 of column 3). David further discloses a teleconference stage of operation that corresponds to the handset down mode claimed (Fig. 2, column 4, lines 15-22). In this mode, the incoming signal on Line 1 is connected to the speakerphone speaker and the speakerphone microphone is connected to the outgoing side of Line 1 (i.e., first audio input and a first audio output of a first telephone call on the first telecommunications line via the hands-free audio interface). David further discloses a collaborative stage (Fig. 3; column 4, lines 26-44) in which Line 2 is connected to the handset interface and the outgoing audio from the speakerphone microphone is interrupted (i.e., muting the first audio input and maintaining to communicate the first audio output of the first telephone call via the hands-free audio interface and communicating a second audio input and a second audio output for a second telephone call on the second telephone line via the handset). However, David discloses activating the stages by operation of a key on the telephone set (column 4, lines 28-30) and not by handset position. While handset control of speakerphone mode is well known in the art (see, for example, US Patent 5,588,041 to Meyer, Jr. et al.), The specific use of handset position to switch between a speakerphone

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conferencing stage on a first line in an on-hook position and a collaborative handset stage on a second line with the first line muted in an off-hook position is not anticipated or fairly suggested by the prior art. As such, Claim 46 is allowable.

3. Claims 48, 50, 52 through 55, 57, 59, and 61 through 63 all recite similar limitations to Claim 46 and are allowable for the same reasons.

4. Claims 47, 49, 51, 56, 58, 60 and 65 are allowable due to dependence from allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Swerdlow whose telephone number is 703-305-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forrester Isen can be reached on 703-305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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